SIRHAN LAWYER TO BE CHOSEN

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ACLU Official Explains Appointment Plan

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A lawyer chosen by the Los Angeles County Bar Association and approved by the defendant will represent Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused as the assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

A.L. Wirin, Southern California chief counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, made that announcement Monday before visiting the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant who is held under close guard at the County Central Jail.

Wirin said he would not discuss what Sirhan tells him and is limiting all statements to comply with a sweeping security court order issued Friday when Superior Court Judge Arthur L. Alarcon arraigned Sirhan.

MANY OFFERS

Wirin said many attorneys have offered to represent Sirhan, but he would not name them. So far Sirhan has been represented by the public defender's office.

Whoever is chosen "big or small," will serve without fee, Wirin said. He added that Sirhan has no complaints about the way his case has been handled so far.

Judge Alarcon's order banned discussion of the case by any public official, lawyer or subpoenaed witness, to safeguard Sirhan's civil rights. Wirin said he feels the order is "exemplary" and hopes it will serve as an example for a court rule for application in Los Angeles County to "every person charged with a crime."

Then he added: "If I have any sense left, I will be extremely guarded in what I say."

NAME TO BE GIVEN

Wirin said the bar association will recommend counsel for Sirhan and the name will be submitted to Superior Court Judge Richard Schauer for approval. Then Sirhan will have the final say on who his lawyer will be. The American Civil Liberties Union will not recommend a defense attorney, he said.

Meanwhile, Donald R. Wright, presiding judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court, said he is opposed to holding Sirhan's trial in the new County Courthouse. He said it "has no security facilities at all, except one lockup," and suggested the old Hall of Justice has better facilities.

There, said Judge Wright, the defendant could be taken to and from court virtually without public notice.

Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess has reported that numerous threats have been made against Sirhan's life since the defendant was jailed.